GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1478
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Population of Wild Animals
Swami Maharaj Dr. Sakshi

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of wild animals especially lions, tigers, elephants, rhinos etc. is decreasing in various forests/national parks in the country including Uttar Pradesh;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government for the protection of wild life?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a)&(b) No, Sir. The number of wild animals especially lions, tigers, elephants, rhinos are not decreasing in various forests/national parks in the country including Uttar Pradesh. A comparative estimated population of tigers, elephants, rhino and lions, as available with the Ministry, is given in the Annexure.

(c) The steps taken by the Government for the protection of wild animals and their habitats include:
i. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for punishment for violation of its provisions.

ii. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.

iii. Financial assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant', for providing better protection to wildlife and improvement of habitat.

iv. The Ministry has taken up the initiative for conservation breeding of the critically endangered species, like Asiatic Lion, Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphins, Manipur Brow Antler Deer, Vultures, etc. under the Endangered Species Recovery Programme.

v. The local communities are involved in conservation measures through eco-development activities who help the forest department in protection of wildlife.

vi. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau activities have been intensified to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.

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